

Message Text

SECRET

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60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

EB-07 /068 W

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R 211735Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3860

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

S E C R E T LISBON 4782

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: MILI, PINS, AO

SUBJ: FLEC REITERATES APPEAL FOR US AID

REFS: (A) LISBON 4154

(B) LISBON A-181 DATED JULY 24, 1975

SUMMARY: IN AUGUST 14 MEETING WITH EMBOFF FLEC REPRESENTATIVE REITERATED CALL FOR CLANDESTINE US SUPPORT; CLAIMED RANQUE FRANQUE-TIAGO SPLIT WAS PLANNED STRATEGEM. END SUMMARY.

1. JORGE PEDRO LUIS PUNA (WHO ON EARLIER VISIT HAD IDENTIFIED HIMSELF ONLY AS JORGE PEDRO LUIS) IS THE CABINDA ENCLAVE LIBERATION FRONT (FRENTE DE LIBERTACAO DO ENCLAVE DE CABINDA--FLEC) REPRESENTATIVE IN PORTUGAL. PUNA CAME TO THE EMBASSY AUG. 14 FOR THE RESPONSE TO HIS JULY 22 APPEAL FOR COVERT US MILITARY AID TO FLEC (REF A). WHEN TOLD THAT OUR POLICY CONTINUED TO BE STRICT NEUTRALITY, PUNA REITERATED HIS CALL FOR HELP IN VIRTUALLY THE SAME TERMS THAT HE USED IN THE FIRST MEETING. (REF B).

2. IN THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, PUNA MADE
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THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

--HIGHLY PUBLICIZED SCHISM IN FLEC LEADERSHIP BETWEEN PRESIDENT RANQUE FRANQUE AND VICE-PRESIDENT TIAGO WAS A DECEPTION FABRICATED BY FLEC: BOTH INDIVIDUALS CONTINUE TO WORK IN CLOSE COLLABORATION. PURPOSE OF STRATEGEM WAS TO TAKE PRESSURE OFF RANQUE FRANQUE AND TO LULL OPPONENTS INTO THINKING THAT FLEC WAS INEPT AND HARMLESS. BOTH INDIVIDUALS, AS WELL AS ALEXANDER TATI (FLEC MILITARY COMMANDER), AND PUNA ARE SCHEDULED TO MEET IN MID-OCTOBER IN MAIOMBE (PHONETIC), GABON, TO MAP FUTURE FLECT STRATEGY. --FLEC STRATEGY CALLS FOR RESTRAINT UNTIL THE PORTUGUESE WITHDRAW FOLLOWING ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE. FORCES OF THE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS WOULD THEN BE NO MATCH FOR FLEC. --DISTRIBUTION OF FLEC FORCES IS AS FOLLOWS: 20,000 MEN IN ZAIRE; 10,000 IN GABON; 1,000 MEN IN BEIRUT, LEBANON; AND "ELMENTS" IN CABINDA. (COMMENT: THESE NUMBERS SEEM OBVIOUSLY EXAGGERATED).

3. PUNA STATED HE WOULD RETURN WITHIN TWO WEEKS TO RECEIVE THE US RESPONSE TO HIS DEMANDS.

4. COMMENT: PUNA WAS OPEN AND CANDID AND SEEMS TO BE ON THE LEVEL. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY HIM ON JULY 22 HAS ON THE WHOLE BEEN SUPPORTED BY RECENT EVENTS.
CARLUCCI

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NNN

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